Duke University Press

Catalog of BOOKS

FALL & WINTER
1958

Joseph Conrad: Letters to William Blackwood and David S. Meldrum

William Blackburn, editor

These letters reveal Conrad at work on such memorable books as *Lord Jim* and the volume of stories, "Youth," "Heart of Darkness," and "The End of the Tether." They are addressed to William Blackwood, editor of *Blackwood's Magazine* and head of the famous Edinburgh publishing house, and to David S. Meldrum, literary adviser in the London office of the firm. They show the patience and kindness of Blackwood—a kindness on which Conrad came to lean very heavily. A Conrad microcosm, the collection illuminates the complexity of his troubled but heroic career. A few of these letters are among the most eloquent Conrad ever wrote—one in particular is a moving defense of his character, career, and his ideals in art. His financial insecurity, dramatized in his indebtedness to Adolf P. Krieger, bore indirectly upon the relationship between author and publisher and finally led to an estrangement. In retrospect, however, Conrad looked upon his connection with Blackwood as perhaps the happiest of his life. The letters of Conrad, about 140 in all, are fortified by those from Blackwood to him and by memoranda from Meldrum to Blackwood. Since Conrad and Stephen Crane were bound together in friendship and both were bound to *Blackwood's*, several letters about Crane are also included.

William Blackburn is Professor of English at Duke University.

234 pages November $6.00

Chaucer

A Critical Appreciation

Paull F. Baum

This is not another general survey of Chaucer, but a criticism which is appreciative and an appreciation which is critical, focused on selected aspects of Chaucer's poetry which best illustrate its dual purpose. It is critical not only of Chaucer's limitations but of the professional scholars' excesses in *un*critical praise of their "incomparable poet." By way of appreciation it draws attention to certain merits of Chaucer's poetry which have been usually overlooked.

The first chapter tries to form a picture of Chaucer in his own milieu and to relate his literary work to it. This is followed by a special study of the scholars' elaboration—some of it ingenious and some of it irresponsible—of Chaucer's representation of the Pardoner. On the *Canterbury Tales*, Chaucer's most famous but very uneven work, there are four sections. Chaucer's masterpiece, *Troilus and Criseyde*, is discussed apropos of its controversial Epilogue, which reflects on his success and his failure in the management of the whole passionate story. Lastly there is a chapter on Chaucer's art and his humor. Throughout the book there are fresh critical observations, some of them perhaps heterodox, on other poems and characteristics.

Paull F. Baum is James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Duke University.

282 pages December $6.00

Negro Slavery in Arkansas

Orville W. Taylor

For nearly a century the history of Negro slavery in Arkansas lay in obscurity, remembered chiefly in family traditions and by a decreasing number of "old-timers." No serious attempt was made to record the history of the "peculiar institution," and its importance was so minimized that general historians of slavery in the South usually devoted only a few lines to Arkansas. And yet when slavery was abolished there were slaves in every county, and almost one-half of the population was directly involved in slavery as slave, slave-owner, or member of a slaveowner's family. But now the significant place which Negro slavery occupied in the life and economy of Arkansas has been given due recognition in this first comprehensive study of slavery in Arkansas. Mr. Taylor traces the growth of slavery in Arkansas from John Law's Colony through French, Spanish, territorial, and statehood days, then describes with authentic flavor various aspects of the institution: the slave trade, work, living conditions, medical treatment, religion, education, marriage, personal morality, discipline, and manumission. The book is based largely on original, previously-unused source-material: diaries, plantation records, letters, family papers, church, city, and county records, and newspapers.

Orville W. Taylor is Professor of History at Baptist College, Iwo, Nigeria.

302 pages November $6.00

American Independence through Prussian Eyes

Marvin L. Brown, Jr., editor

This selection of previously unused Prussian diplomatic correspondence, translated by the editor, reveals the way in which the negotiations of 1782-1783 were regarded by a great neutral power. The letters are those exchanged between Frederick the Great and his ambassadors in London, Paris, The Hague, and Madrid. In a limited and specialized way they supplement the *Politische Correspondenz* of Frederick the Great, which goes only as far as the spring of 1782, the point at which these letters and excerpts begin. They show the Prussian statesmen following the negotiations of 1782 with great attention and well aware that American independence would not occur in a vacuum. In commenting on territorial settlements they particularly emphasized the interrelationship of the North American settlements with the operations in the Caribbean, India, and especially at Gibraltar. The Prussians were refreshingly objective in their observations. They detected, however, little of the ideological significance of American independence and revealed at times amusing lack of geographical understanding. Frederick himself appears as greatly changed from the dashing figure of 1740. By 1782 he had become an elderly philosopher-king, anxiously interested in peace, mediation, and commerce.

Marvin L. Brown, Jr., is Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State College.

250 pages December $5.00

Corporate Earning Power and Market Valuation, 1935-1955

Sidney Cottle and Tate Whitman

From an investment standpoint, the most important single fact about a business is its earning power. The fact of next importance is the market's valuation of that earning power. Neither a company's income-producing capacity nor the value the market places on it can be evaluated in isolation. Both must be judged in terms of the performance of other companies in the industry or, preferably, in terms of that industry's over-all experience.

The comparative analysis of both companies and industries rests on factual information. Therefore, consistently prepared data which provide a basis for both intercompany and interindustry comparisons and which extend over a sufficient period to provide perspective are essential to effective analysis.

This book provides the investor with the consistently developed "yardstick" data essential not only to a more effective comparative analysis of industries and companies but also to a fuller appraisal of portfolio diversification. It is the product of a four-year study which involved the close examination of 150 companies over the twenty-one year span from 1935 through 1955.

Sidney Cottle is Senior Economist at the Stanford Research Institute. Tate Whitman is Professor of Economics at Emory University.

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John S. Bradway

The law student, particularly the first year law student, needs a frame of reference and a key. He needs to understand the relationship between the courses which he is taking and their over-all significance. The thread which holds them all together is that woven when a client comes to a lawyer with a problem and the lawyer undertakes to solve it. There is no substitute for a real client with a real problem. A case decided by an appellate court puts emphasis on hindsight. What the lawyer needs is foresight. In his regular courses the student obtains invaluable material but it is related not so much to a client as to the topic around which the course is built. It does not provide that sense of progressive continuity with which the practicing lawyer is continually surrounded. The present volume will give the student a degree of that continuity, at least in terms of one personal injury case. It consists basically of the actual papers prepared and used by opposing counsel in a real law suit. To these have been added an introduction, division headings to show the steps in the continuous development of a case at law, and a few headnotes to explain the nature of some of the steps.

John S. Bradway is Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Aid Clinic at the Duke University Law School.

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Alexander DeConde

"This is an able discussion of the foreign policy of the new nation when our political leaders in some fashion had to prevent our presumed ally, France, from devouring us and our late enemy, England, from destroying us. . . . DeConde has gone back to original sources and now presents first-hand evidence of the views of the Founding Fathers in the proper context of the times. This is an important book which should be read by every member of Congress interested in foreign policy."
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Charles Gibson, with E. V. Niemeyer

The *Hispanic American Historical Review* is a quarterly journal published in cooperation with the Conference on Latin American History of the American Historical Association. The first *Guide,* compiled by Ruth L. Butler, covered the years 1918 to 1945 and was published in 1950. This work is its successor. Like Mrs. Butler's *Guide* it presents a classification of the articles published and summarizes the contents of each. The list of works reviewed furnishes a useful bibliography of Hispanic American history within this time span.

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The Life of General George Miller Sternberg

John M. Gibson

General Sternberg is regarded by many as America's greatest bacteriologist. He was a strong claimant to the discovery of pneumonia's causative agent. He was one of the first, if not the first, in the United States to demonstrate and photograph the tubercle bacillus. He suggested—two years before Elie Metchikoff—that white corpuscles might attack and destroy disease germs. As Surgeon General he overcame great difficulties to give troops proper protection. And he helped give Washington a public library and low-cost housing.

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Milton M. Gordon

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Paull F. Baum

There are several reasons which justify a close study of Arnold's poetry. Many of the poems are deceptively simple; for when he aimed at the plain severe style the result was sometimes obscure from over-condensation and sometimes difficult from failure to achieve complete clarity. Such poems demand explication to order to reveal either their full meaning or occasionally the faults of his method of composition. In these *Ten Studies* Dr. Baum has made a valuable contribution to the understanding and appreciation of Arnold's poetry.

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